

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims and their status as of this Amendment is as follows:

1.(Currently amended) A pump casing for a centrifugal pump, comprising:
a volute section having a discharge formed therein, a discharge neck leading into said discharge and having a cutwater positioned adjacent said discharge;
a suction side; and
a drive side;
where at least one of said suction side or said drive side is further configured as a separable side liner having a non-circular perimeter edge structured for attachment to said volute section extending from said cutwater to said discharge neck, said non-circular perimeter edge of said side liner having a radially-extending portion oriented toward said cutwater and having an increased radius.

2.(Original) The pump casing of claim 1 wherein both said suction side and said drive side are structured as side liners.

3.(Original) The pump casing of claim 2 wherein both said suction side liner and said drive side liner have non-circular perimeter edges for attachment to said volute section.

4.(Original) The pump casing of claim 1 wherein said drive side is structured as a side liner with a non-circular perimeter edge.

5.(Original) The pump casing of claim 4 wherein said suction side is structured as a side liner and has a circular perimeter for attachment to said volute section.

6.(Original) The pump casing of claim 1 wherein said volute section has a peripheral profile extending from said cutwater to said discharge, said volute section

profile having an open cutwater configuration.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

8.(Currently amended) The pump casing of claim 7 1 wherein said radially extending portion is further structured with a wear resistant insert positioned in proximity to said cutwater.

9.(Currently amended) A pump casing for a centrifugal pump, comprising:
a volute section of a pump casing having a discharge formed therein and having a cutwater positioned adjacent said discharge and having at least one peripheral edge extending from the neck of said discharge to said cutwater;
a suction side attached to said volute section;
a drive side attached to said volute section; and
where at least one of either said suction side or said drive side has a perimeter edge and for attachment to said at least one peripheral edge of said volute section, said perimeter edge having a radially extending portion oriented toward said cutwater.

10.(Original) The pump casing of claim 9 wherein said perimeter edge of said at least one side is non-circular.

11.(Original) The pump casing of claim 10 wherein said at least one side is formed as a side liner.

12.(Original) The pump casing of claim 11 wherein said side liner is on said drive side.

13.(Original) The pump casing of claim 11 wherein said side liner is on said

suction side.

14.(Original) The pump casing of claim 9 wherein said at least one side having a radially extending portion is further comprised with a perimeter edge at least a portion of which is circular.

15.(Original) The pump casing of claim 14 wherein said radially extending portion has an apex and a radial distance D_p which is greater than the radius of said portion of said side which is circular.

16.(Original) The pump casing of claim 15 wherein said volute section has a peripheral profile extending from said cutwater to said discharge, said volute section profile having an open cutwater configuration.

17.(Original) The pump casing of claim 9 wherein said radially extending portion is further configured with a wear resistant insert positioned in said radially extending portion in proximity to said cutwater.

18.(Currently amended) A pump casing for a centrifugal pump, comprising:
a volute section of a pump casing having a curved profile in radial cross section and having a cutwater positioned adjacent a tangential discharge;
a drive side casing connected to said volute section;
a suction side casing connected to said volute section; and
a radially extending portion oriented toward said cutwater and positioned on a perimeter edge of at least one of said drive side casing or said suction side casing to localize wear on said casing to said radially extending portion.

19.(Original) The pump casing of claim 18 wherein said radially extending portion

is positioned on said drive side.

20.(Original) The pump casing of claim 18 wherein said radially extending portion is positioned on said suction side.